

REMARKS

Claims 5-6, 15-16, and 20-21 were pending in the instant application. All pending claims are allowed.

During review of the claims prior to payment of the issue fee, Applicants note that both claims 20 and 21 have an incorrect dependency. Claim 20 and 21 depend from claims 10 and 11, respectively. Claims 10 and 11 were cancelled and the limitations of those claims were added into claims 5 and 6. Consequently, claims 20 and 21 should depend from claims 5 and 6, respectively. Therefore Applicants request that the dependency of these two claims be corrected.

Applicants additionally note that "siNA" is used in claims 20 and 21, yet claims 5 and 6, as amended in response to an Examiner's rejection, state "siRNA." Applicants request that the term "siNA" in claims 20 and 21, be replaced with the term "siRNA" as used in claims 5 and 6.

Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be accepted prior to publication of the issued patent. Thus, Applicants are petitioning for the amendments set forth above.

The amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter and are supported by the specification and claims. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful and thorough review of the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to the claims and allow all amended claims.

As no new claims are being added, Applicants do not believe that any fees are due with this petition. In the event that any fees are due, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-4615. Please direct all correspondence to the following customer number: 79693.

Respectfully submitted,
Sirna Therapeutics, Inc.
A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Merck & Co.

Date: October 17, 2008

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